

Local Latinas Graduating From Popular Planned Parenthood Los Angeles Outreach Program Give Back to Their Communities

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Promotoras Will Go Into L.A. Communities to Educate People on Reproductive Health, Domestic Violence, Alcohol / Drug Abuse

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 13 /PRNewswire/ -- Planned Parenthood Los Angeles (PPLA) and the Hathaway Family Resource Center in collaboration with Hollywood Teen Community Project and Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) Head Start Preschool will celebrate the graduation of 18 new Promotoras Comunitarias on Thursday, January 15 at 10 a.m. at the Ramona Hall Community Center located at 4580 North Figueroa in Los Angeles.

Following their six months of intensive training, the Promotoras will join approximately 55 other Latinas in the program who go into schools, churches, community centers and individual homes to educate people about the benefits of responsible reproductive health care, violence prevention and personal development.

Their training in the Promotoras Comunitarias curriculum included instruction in topics such as how to talk to children about sex, birth control methods, teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, self-esteem, prenatal care, family communication techniques and alcohol/drug abuse.

"This truly is an extraordinary group of women," said Melinda Cordero, director of Promotoras Comunitarias for PPLA. "In addition to their roles as mothers, wives, daughters and grandmothers, these women have chosen to become role models in their communities and make a difference in the lives of those around them, while at the same time enriching their own."

PPLA started the Promotoras Comunitarias program 13 years ago to address the lack of access to reproductive health care and sexuality information in the Latino community. The program was modeled after Mexican and Central American programs that reach at-risk populations by utilizing peer-to-peer education with the most influential member of the family -- the mother.

Since the Promotoras Comunitarias began in 1991, the program has reached more than 100,000 people in Los Angeles County.

About Promotoras Comunitarias

A program of PPLA, Promotoras Comunitarias is a culturally sensitive outreach program aimed at empowering Latina women with knowledge about health issues that impact their lives and the lives of their families. Through the development of their own communication and leadership skills, these women serve as role models and educators to their friends, families, and neighbors. The goal of the program is to help Latina women understand that the knowledge and skills they have are important in their own lives as independent women, workers, wives and mothers.

About Planned Parenthood Los Angeles

PPLA is the largest provider of reproductive health care services in Los Angeles County. It provides clinical services to more than 58,000 people a year, 84% of whom come to the agency for birth control and 97% of whom require some financial assistance for their care. PPLA outreach programs deliver sexuality and family planning education to nearly 125,000 teens, women and men a year. Through its Planned Parenthood Advocacy Project Los Angeles County, the agency is also a leading advocate for reproductive rights.

For more information, visit www.pplosangeles.org .

Source: Planned Parenthood Los Angeles